

GRO South Hadley Community Gardens  
Minutes of June 16, 2016

Attending: Wayne Desroches, Mike Plasnick, Peg Sullivan, Suzanne Paris, Sue Brouillette, Brian Schrauf, Marie Rohan, Doris Dubois

Note: Due to road block, the meeting was delayed 30 minutes until a quorum was reached.

The minutes of May's meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in GRO account is \$\$3290.98. \$100.33 of this amount is designated for the Norcross Grant. Peg Sullivan's full report follows these minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Wayne announced the passing of Trish Nelen. Her skill as a gardener was noted. A broader discussion focused on how best to acknowledge the loss of gardeners. We will revisit this topic soon.

Wayne led a discussion about open plots. There are 2. The benefits of using cover crops or garden fabric were discussed.

4 gardeners have not been oriented. That very small number suggests that the orientation process was a success.

Air horns are needed and will be provided by Suzanne.

Also, Suzanne will work on creating more signage for the community gardens concerning closing gates, turning off water, using air horns.

A suggestion about advertising the gardens at condo developments was well-received. Wayne will develop this process.

There are 6 new trees in the permaculture area. They are installed with water bags. Sue Kelsey will provide info about properly tagging the trees for identification.

Sue Kelsey will examine the vines and plants growing along the back fence. If removal is needed, we will address that.

Sue B will establish tool centers in the back gardens. This will be useful in diminishing community gardeners use of the food pantry tool supplies.

Given that there is a stubborn vole problem at the gardens, Brian suggests castor oil be used. His will offer to show how to use this product to discourage these garden problems.

Wayne will check with Mike Sullivan re tree dedication to honor John Carestia.

The Health Fair at EINC is on June 28. Wayne will report back.

Marie Rohan gave a presentation about the Seed Lending Library. it was informative and colorful. She will be at the South Hadley Farmers Market from 4 - 6. She encourages every gardener to participate in the seed-lending process!

Wayne suggest that small crews be formed to get garden projects done. We might want to list the projects and ask for leaders for each project. That person can assemble a crew and address community garden work.

it is important for gardeners to remember to document his/her volunteer hours! Wayne will remind gardeners of this necessity.

Next meeting is Thursday, July 21, at 6:30 at the Community Gardens

Adjourn!

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